

August 30, 2010

To whom it may concern:

RE: In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and speech-to-Speech Services for
Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities
CG Docket No. 03-123
WC Docket No. 05-196
Proceeding Number 10-51

The American Society for Deaf Children encourages the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reconsider the portion of the Commission's decision to not authorize individuals without a hearing or speech disability the ability to obtain ten-digit numbers from Video Relay Service providers for the purpose of telecommunication using video conferencing equipment with people with a hearing or speech disability.

It is critical that all individuals, including hearing individuals, be able to obtain ten-digit numbers for the purpose of communicating with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have a speech disability who use videophones. At this time, a hearing person has no ability to obtain a ten-digit number from any source to engage in direct videophone telecommunication with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or who has a speech disability or vice versa. The American Society for Deaf Children feels that it is crucial to enable direct videophone telecommunication between hearing family members, friends, co-workers, service providers and other individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or have a speech disability.

Access to 10-digit numbers would enable videophone telecommunication between a deaf child and a hearing parent, or a deaf parent and a hearing child. It is estimated that more than 93% of deaf and hard of hearing children have hearing parents. It is essential that as their child grows, attends college, moves into their own homes, etc. that parents have the ability to continue direct communication with their child.

The fact that parents must use an interpreter to communicate with their children, who may not be living with the parents, when the family has the ability and skills to have direct communication is appalling.

We ask you again to please reconsider the Commission's decision to not authorize individuals without a hearing or speech disability the ability to obtain ten-digit numbers from Video Relay Service providers.